

a threat, poaching is taking its toll and unless conservation measures are implemented the future of these animals is bleak. Parts of Dibang RF, Kerim RF and Sirkee proposed RF (totalling 202 sq. km) I have been recommended for a national park for its importance as the habitat of Bengal florican *Eupodotis bengalensis*, white-winged wood duck *Cairina scutulata*, tiger *Panthera tigris*, elephant *Elephas maximus*, of

course the wild buffalo and as an important flyway of migratory waterfowl, including the common crane *Grus grus* (Choudhury, 1996).

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wood duck and the Bengal florican in Tinsukia district, and adjacent areas of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The Rhino Foundation for Nature in NE India, Guwahati.

### 6. FORAGING ASSOCIATION OF WHITE STORK *CICONIA CICONIA* WITH BLACKBUCK *ANTILOPE CERVICAPRA*

We visited Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary and National Park (Bhavnagar dist. Gujarat) on November 5, 1988. At 0830 hrs, there were 500 blackbuck *Antelope cervicapra* scattered in small groups around the guest house. Though at a close range, the blackbucks were camouflaged against almost dried grass whereas more than 50 white storks *Ciconia ciconia*, which were either foraging in the grass or flying across a short distance, were quite conspicuous. We saw at least 6 storks walking behind the blackbuck within 2 m distance and capturing disturbed prey. Since the storks were attending separate groups of blackbucks, this foraging association was not easily noticeable. The storks frequently changed the feeding site, pursuing one group of blackbuck after another. This foraging association was exactly the same as that of cattle egret *Bubulcus ibis* following cattle.

To capture disturbed prey, the white storks are known to follow fire (Hancock *et al.* 1992), plough in the crop field (Pinowski *et al.* 1991) and other mammals (Hancock *et al.* 1992, Dean and MacDonald 1981). In Africa, white storks are known to associate with Cape buffalo, white rhinoceros, blue wildebeest, impala and domestic cattle (Dean and MacDonald 1981). However, in India, white storks are not reported to associate with any wild or domestic mammals and hence this is the first such report.

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